

Weekly Status & Information Report: Week of September 6, 2004

1. **Street Restoration (Ward 4):** Milling and paving of Maple Avenue between Sherman and Sligo Creek Parkway is scheduled for Monday, 9/13 and Tuesday, 9/14. Installation of special marked crosswalks in that area is expected to occur the last week in September. (*Public Works*)

2. **Stormline Installation (Ward 1):** The design for the Maple Avenue stormdrain between the 7200 and 7400 of Maple Avenue is complete. Construction planning is underway. The project is expected to take 3 to 4 weeks and will begin in October. The affected section of the roadway will be closed during construction from 8am to 5pm. This is because the stormline will be installed in the middle of the street and the construction equipment will be parked beside the excavated areas. PW staff will prepare notices for residents and will be notifying Ride-On and Metro about the planned temporary road closure. PW will install detour signs and road closed ahead signs around the project. Each evening after 5 the road will be open and passable. (*Public Works*)

3. **Municipal Tax Rebate (All wards):** The City of Takoma Park has received notice from Montgomery County Executive's Office that it intends on changing the calculation of the City's municipal tax rebate for police services, effective FY2007. The proposed revision would substantially reduce the amount the City receives. Since Takoma Park property owners pay tax for police services to both the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County, but Montgomery County does not provide police service within Takoma Park, the rebate is intended to refund to Takoma Park the amount Montgomery County would have spent on police services within the City if it were responsible for those services. City staff will be meeting with County staff on the proposal and calculations, working to ensure that the amount of the rebate is actually the full amount the County would have paid for police services for Takoma Park. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

4. **Community Development Block Grant Program (PY 31):** Four CDBG applications were received by HCD staff for consideration for the current CDBG cycle:

Hearts and Homes for Youth: After-school and Mentoring Program - \$18,305

City of Takoma Park PD: CSAFE Program - \$25,000

Historic Takoma: Boundary Stone Interpretation - \$3,525

City of Takoma Park HCD: Capacity Building Program - \$15,000

The Washington McLaughlin Adult Day Care Center submitted an application after the due date, but staff is forwarding the application to the CAC members for review.

CDBG PY 31 TENTATIVE Review Schedule

September 7 - 27 Application Review

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7:00 pm CAC Meeting

September 27 - October 8 Interview applicants

October 11 - 15 Application Selection

Monday, October 18 7:30 pm City Council work session

Monday, October 25 7:30 pm City Council final vote

(*Housing & Community Development*)

5. **Security Deposits - Interest Rate Changes (Rental Housing - City Wide):** Effective October 1, 2004, the rate at which interest shall accrue on security deposits assessed by landlords will be 3% simple interest per year. The change in the rate - it has been 4% for many years - is the result of legislation adopted during the 2004 regular session of the Maryland General Assembly. Please refer any questions about the new interest rate to Moses Wilds, Jr. at 301-891-7215. (*Housing and Community Development*)

6. **Capacity Building Program/Affordable Housing (Wards 3 and 6):** Notices were received this week regarding the sale of two rental properties, 54 Elm Avenue (4 units) and 7906 Kennewick Avenue (4 units). Letters detailing the rights that tenants have to purchase the properties have been sent to the residents of both buildings. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. **Montgomery County Housing Fair (City Wide):** Planning is continuing for the Montgomery County Housing Fair which will take place on Saturday, October 2, 2004 from 10 am - 4 pm at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. This will be a great place for interested First Time Homebuyers to access all types of information regarding purchasing a home and its all at one location. Takoma Park has been participating as a member of the planning committee for the past two years. Last year there were approximately 1000 attendees. Surveys conducted at last year's event indicate that roughly 8% of those attending were from Takoma Park. Please refer questions to Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. **Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project (Ward 1 & 3):** Requests for bids for the construction of the Laurel Avenue section of the project will be available September 13 with bids due by October 4th. Bollards and planned landscaping improvements will be bid separately. Due to unforeseen material delays, the manufacturer is no longer able to supply the bollards initially selected for the project in a timely manner. A second bollard was suggested by staff and community representatives were given an opportunity to comment on the alternate style. The proposed alternate was well received and will be ordered yet this month. Discussions with the merchants along Laurel Avenue about the phasing of the project have raised some concerns regarding access to the businesses during the holiday shopping season. Staff is exploring a number of options to lessen the impact of the project. Staff is in the midst of identifying an alternative site for the Farmer's Market during the construction of the project. Discussions with the owners of the parking lots at Willow and Carroll Avenues - a block from Laurel Avenue - are underway and should be finalized in the near future. Farmer's Market representatives have been involved in this discussion. *(Economic and Community Development)*

9. **Crime Report (Ward 6):** Patrol officers responded to an assault report in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue this morning (9/10/04). In the course of investigation, they have arrested two males and one female, who will be charged today for drug and hand gun possession. Investigation is on-going. *(Police)*

10. **New Officer:** A new policeman will be sworn in on Monday, Sept. 13 at 6:15 p.m. Ofc. Derrick Fields, 29, is a graduate of the PG Municipal Police Academy and began field training in the Communications/Dispatch office this week. *(Police)*

11. **Officers in Training:** D/Cpl Andrew John attended Forensic Digital Photograph training this week. Lt. Richard Cipperly will be attending a week-long training next week on Child Fatality Investigation. Concerns regarding investigations should be addressed to D/A/Sgt. Poole at 301/891-7127. *(Police)*

12. **Patriots Day:** In commemoration of 9-11, Patriots Day, the Women's Ministry of the Takoma Park Seventh Day Adventist Church (Ward 1) presented baskets of fruits, juices, and pastry to police officers, along with prayers for their continued strength and safety. *(Police)*

13. **New Police Vehicles:** Equipment for outfitting the new vehicles (Taurus) for investigators has arrived; installation should be complete within three weeks and the former vehicles will be transferred to patrol. *(Police)*

14. **K-9 Officer:** Cpl. Doug Malarkey, and his canine partner Diesel, have successfully completed training. They began patrol duties this week, currently working the night shift on Sgt. Skibicki's team. *(Police)*

15. **Film Festival:** The Takoma Park Film Festival Committee is finalizing plans for its third annual event, tentatively scheduled for November 6 - 14. The Takoma Theater is being explored as a possible location for this year's Festival. *(Library)*

16. **Golf Tournament:** The third annual golf tournament held in memory of former Takoma Park Library patron Mike Morrissey netted approximately \$4,500. It is anticipated that all proceeds will be donated to the Library some time later in the year. *(Library)*

17. **College Bound:** The College Bound Speakers series sponsored by the Library for high school students and their parents exploring college options will be held the first three Tuesday evenings in October. Topics will include choosing a college, the application process, funds for college and the new SATs. Interested parents and students may pre-register by calling the Library. *(Library)*

18. **CD-ROMs for Children:** The Library has new interactive CD-ROMs for children to use in the Library, including "Adventures with Edison," "The Magic School Bus Explores the Rainforest," "Magic Eye," "I Spy: Spooky Mansion" and "The Chessmaster 3000". *(Library)*

19. **Christopher Phillips:** An enthusiastic audience of parents and elementary age children joined author ("Socrates Café") Christopher Phillips in an evening of philosophic inquiry on September 9th. *(Library)*

20. **Tennis Clinic:** The Recreation Department's Fall Tennis Clinic starts on Monday, September 20, which is held three days a week. The program is for 1st - 8th graders, and runs for six weeks. We usually fill all six sessions with kids on their way to Wimbledon. *(Recreation)*

21. **Outdoor Soccer Clinic:** The Outdoor Soccer Clinic starts Tuesday the 21st and is geared for grades 1-6. They meet twice a week (on Tu/Th) from 3:45-5:45p.m for six weeks. We expect anywhere from 20-40 kids to sign up this fall. Both the Tennis Clinic and Outdoor Soccer Clinic programs are geared toward the beginner and intermediate player, with emphasis on teaching the basic fundamentals of each sport and making sure the kids have fun while they learn new skills in a safe after school environment. *(Recreation)*

22. **Touch-a-Truck:** On September 18, Touch-a-Truck is coming to Takoma Park. Located at the Public Works Garage area from 10-11:30 a.m., kids of all ages (especially those age 1-6) will be able to see a bobcat, street sweeper, dump truck, trash truck and a back hoe up close. There will be a short reception following the event at Heffner Community Center for all participants. *(Recreation)*